

Tension Mounts In So. Viet Nam

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (Reuters)—With tension mounting, the Viet Nam government and the opposition private armies both hurried strong reinforcements into Saigon area Friday in the most serious crisis since the Indochina truce of last year.

Zero hour is today when an ultimatum from the warlords for extensive a bit of changes, re-arranged by Roman Catholic Premier Ngo Dinh Diem, falls due.

The premier met for 90 minutes with representatives of the opposition Friday but no firm settlement was reached since heads of the three private armies did not authorize to commit them. Another meeting was expected today.

Eight ministers representing the unified Nationalist front were expected to resign when the ultimatum expires today. Police feared their action may be the signal for strikes and violence in Saigon.

MOVE IN TROOPS

Military sources said Diem brought five battalions, including a well-trained parachute unit, into the area Friday.

Four battalions of the Hoa Hao religious sect's private army were sent in to reinforce the opposition strength.

Government troops mounted guard over the ministries and other strategic points, and some were stationed within grenade-throwing distance of the green-battered commandos of the army of Binh Xuyden, one of the opposition sects.

Diem, reputed to be an honest and high-minded statesman, is nervous in the presence of others and has run his government in an autocratic manner from his office since he took power last June. From January to mid-March this year he did not hold a single cabinet meeting.

The warlords allege that Diem's government is inefficient and that he reserves all power for himself and his brothers and the Roman Catholic Church.

The demand for a "government of national unity" in which they would have real power.

Lewiston Bridge Safe; Ice Threatens Power Station

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. (CP)—Wary workmen Friday slugged sandbags into a six-foot dyke to protect the Ontario Hydro generating station at Queenston from jammed-up Niagara river ice.

An official at Lewiston bridge, earlier reported in danger, said the structure would not be harmed.

A natural-gas line crossing the river two miles north of the bridge, was built to withstand such pressures, said Oakah L. Jones, manager of Consumers' Gas. He said there is no danger to Toronto's gas supply.

NIAGARA GORGE PLUGGED

The ice began slamming into the lower river Thursday afternoon, hastened by strong winds and high temperatures. The lower gorge was plugged from the falls to Niagara-on-the-Lake except for a few rapids spots near the Whirlpool rapids.

The 13-mile stretch spilled ice onto the shore on both Canadian and American sides. At least two families had to evacuate cottages, including one worth \$25,000, were wrecked at Lewiston, N. Y.

The worst stretch was about six miles, from where the river leaves the gorge.

FIGHT TO SAVE NEW PLANT

At the 1,228,000-horsepower generating station near Queenston, Ontario hydro crews sandbagged the plant and prepared to fight to save the access road. The plant is part of a recently-finished project including a tunnel carrying water under the city of Niagara Falls to turn the generators.

Water and ice, rising steadily in the area, tore away and destroyed a Bailey bridge.

The ice jam above the falls cut the flow of water over the American falls. Engineers were unable to move it with dynamite. Officials said if it gave way suddenly the rush into the lower jam might cause heavy damage.

Meanwhile severe damage resulted in the lower reaches of the river. Cottages and docks near the shore were swept away. Steamship docks at Queenston and Niagara-on-the-Lake were wrecked.

A yacht basin at Youngstown, across from Niagara-on-the-Lake, was also damaged as the ice piled up like a plug in the rivermouth.

William Howard, a Toronto demolition expert, left by light plane to survey the scene and consider the possibility of dynamiting. Other experts said the only thing to do was wait for warmer weather.

Coming Events

- Covehead - Stanhope community concert, Marshfield hall April 1.
- Cake Sale today, S. A. MacDonald's. Sunshine Group, Kings Daughters.
- Grand Bingo, St. Andrew's Hall, Mt. Stewart, Monday, March 28th. 20 games, door prize.
- Hockey at North River rink tonight Winslow Heartbreakers vs. Glasgow Road Maple Leafs. Game time 8:30. Skate after.
- See the colored lantern slides in Pownall Hall, Tuesday, March 29th, 8 p. m. Auspices Y. P. U.
- Rummage Sale, Christian Church Hall, Saturday, March 26th, 2:30 p. m.
- Cleaning Timothy Seed and grain daily. Elmer MacDonald, Crapaud.
- Rummage Sale, Saturday, March 26th, Trinity United Church Hall, 2:30 p. m. Kings Daughters Group 5.
- Brackley W. M. S. will hold cake and Pantry Sale at Sherwin Williams this Saturday 2:30, in aid of Parsonage.
- Dance, West Royalty Hall Wednesday, Rollie McKenzia's Orchestra. Ganteen Service. 9:30 to 12:30.
- Don't miss the funniest show of the year, by Charlottetown Players, St. Mary's Hall, Souris, Wednesday, March 30th. Excellent Specialties. Curtain 8:30.
- Crapaud rink tonight Nine Mile Creek Bulldogs vs. Cape Traverse Rovers. Third and deciding game in finals. Cup will be presented. Game time 8:30. Skate after if ice permits.
- An important meeting of the Mt. Stewart Strawberry Growers will be held in the Memorial Hall at Mt. Stewart, Wednesday, March 30th, at 8 p. m.
- Showing at Mt. Stewart Friday and Saturday—"Back To Gods Country" with Rock Hudson, Steve Cochran and Barbara Rush. An action picture—the Alaska Gold Rush.
- A real honest to goodness Minstrel Show. That's what is in store for folks in and around Kensington on March 30th, when the Summerdale Lions present their All Star Minstrel Show at the King George Hall.
- Buying pigs and cattle, Monday Frederickton. Tuesday Brookfield 8 a. m. Milton 10, Charlottetown Market Square 11, York 1 p. m. Bedford 2, Tracadie 2:30. Mt. Stewart 3. Pownall 4. Vernon River 5. Paying \$24.00 a pair for good pigs over 40 lbs. each. Will also buy smaller ones. Knud Jorgensen

10 ELECTRICAL, WIRE CABLE COMPANIES CONVICTED UNDER PRICE-FIXING CHARGES

Death Early Today Of Former Mayor Of City

Mr. Percy W. Turner, 70, a former mayor of Charlottetown, died early today in the Prince Edward Island Hospital. He entered the hospital early this week for an operation.

Mr. Turner, although born in Charlottetown, spent his boyhood days in O'Leary where he received his early education. After attending Prince of Wales College he became associated with the firm of H. W. Turner, who operated a general store in O'Leary for several years.

He returned to Charlottetown in 1917 and became engaged in the wholesale footwear business for a number of years until he was appointed C.P.R. ticket agent, a position he retained until the present time.

During the Second Great War Mr. Turner was Queen's County chairman for the First and Second Victory Loan campaigns. Later he was appointed provincial chairman of sales for the National War Finance Committee.

Mr. Turner was a member of the Rotary Club of Charlottetown since 1918, and a past president of that club, and served Rotary International as District Governor and as committee member. In Charlottetown, he has been Mayor, president of the Board of Trade, member of the School Board and president of the Curling Club. He has also been a member of the Board of Regents of Mt. Allison University in Sackville, N. B., president of the Provincial Conservation Association, and a member of the P. E. Island Hospital Trustee Board. He was an active member of Trinity United Church.



The late Mr. Turner

Kilt Authorized For Scottish, Irish Regiments

OTTAWA (CP)—The kilt has been authorized for all ranks of highland, Scottish and Irish regiments of the Canadian Army (militia), the army said Friday.

In the past, battledress was issued to militia soldiers but now highland, Scottish and Irish units will receive kilts instead of battledress trousers. Hose tops, leather garters and garter flashes also will be issued.

Since 1951, highland and Scottish units of the regular army have been issued with kilts for all ranks except officers and warrant officers, first class.

The army said the new kilts probably won't be available for at least a year.

Because of amalgamation and redesignation of regiments in reorganization of the militia, some Scottish and highland regiments will adopt tartans not previously worn by them.

Coal-Burning Jet Engine

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP)—Britain has developed a new coal-burning jet engine that produces both electric power and heat.

Fuel Minister Geoffrey Lloyd said it burns pulverized coal, drives a turbine to generate electricity and uses its exhaust to work a central heating plant. It is based on the kerosene-burning aircraft jet.

Lloyd told a Conservative party meeting the engine has been tried at experiments in Scotland and the power fed into a public supply grid.

He stressed that the project still is in its infancy and added: "One of the main objects is to assess its commercial possibilities."

Brief Monopoly Enjoyed By PEI Potatoes For Army Consumption In Canada

OTTAWA (Special)—Owing to a misunderstanding, the Canadian Army for a period of 48 hours had a requirements order that the only potatoes to be purchased for the army be potatoes from Prince Edward Island. The order was rescinded after a conference between Army and Defence Production, and specifications for potatoes set forth as "Canada No. 1."

In the short period when P.E.I. potatoes were in the ascendant, some 600 bags were purchased from P.E.I. shippers. At present, most of the potatoes bought for the Army are grown in Ontario. Reason for this is that Ontario growers and shippers are ready to sell their potatoes at 30 cents less than New Brunswick potatoes and about 40 cents less than the price asked by the Island province.

"We don't favor or discriminate against any province," a high army officer told The Guardian Friday. "At the same time, we would no more insist on Prince Edward Island potatoes than we would on Saskatchewan beef. We take our specifications from the grades established by the Department of Agriculture. There was some misunderstanding and I believe the word got out that this year's Ontario potato crop was poor and wouldn't grade out as "Canada No. 1." That just didn't happen to be the case.

Here at headquarters, many officers and other ranks buy P.E.I. potatoes for their home consumption because they think they're the best on the market. This sentiment, however, has not been spelled out in purchases by the (Continued on Page 2 col. 4)

Verbal Storm In Commons Over Feed Grain Subsidy

OTTAWA (CP)—A CCF member raised a minor verbal storm in the Commons Friday by questioning the need for federal payment of subsidies on movement of prairie feed grains to other parts of Canada.

Speakers from all parties, including the CCF, refuted the remarks of Ross Thatcher, Moose Jaw-Lake Centre and declared that feed grain subsidies now are needed more than ever before.

Mr. Thatcher, a Moose Jaw hardware merchant, said the treasury has paid out \$222,000,000 in such subsidies since their inception during the Second World War. The original idea was to encourage farmers to produce more wartime meat for Britain but in his opinion that objective had long since been achieved.

He spoke during committee consideration of a supplementary estimate of \$2,000,000 which would bring federal feed grain subsidies to a total of \$19,000,000 for the 1954-55 fiscal year.

The committee finally approved the item.

Parliament At A Glance

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Friday

The Progressive Conservatives stilled Commons approval of a \$28,755,000 appropriation to cover the CNR's 1954 deficit.

John Diefenbaker (PC—Prince Albert) suggested appointment of a full-blooded Indian to the Senate to give Indians their own spokesman in Parliament.

Alberta members asked greater federal assistance to the Canadian coal industry.

Ross Thatcher (CCF—Moose Jaw-Lake Centre) questioned the need for federal subsidies on movement of prairie feed grains.

Western members urged the government to enlarge crop-failure protection under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

Monday

The Commons considers government business. The Senate is adjourned until Tuesday.

Federal Aid To N. S. Apple Growers

OTTAWA (CP)—Net cost of federal assistance to hurricane-hit Nova Scotia apple growers last year was \$625,000.

The Commons Friday approved this spending in the government's supplementary estimates for 1954-55. The government originally spent almost \$1,000,000 in buying apples blown down by hurricane Edna in September, but resold the damaged apples for processing.

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CMHC Profits Take Sharp Slump During Past Year

OTTAWA (CP)—Profits of the government's Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation during 1954 made one of the biggest plunges in its nine-year history as expenses rose sharply in the wake of the administration's new housing legislation.

The annual report, tabled in the Commons today, showed CMHC net income after taxes dropped to \$893,000 in 1954, less than one-half the \$2,235,000 of the previous year.

President Stewart Bates blamed the drop on sharply higher expenses caused by the new legislation under which CMHC appraisals of housing mortgages and uses an army of inspectors to scrutinize construction.

FREE HELD INSUFFICIENT

CMHC charges a \$35 fee for inspections, but Mr. Bates said 1954 experience showed the fee insufficient.

"As a result," he said, "the corporation's administrative expenses have risen sharply and the operating profit dropped by about 60 per cent compared with 1953."

While the drop was attributed mainly to rising expenses, rental revenues shrank as more properties were sold.

The housing situation was considered highly satisfactory in 1954. New houses started rose to a record 118,000, a gain of 11 per cent over 1953. Houses completed rose to a peak 106,000, up six per cent over 1953.

Grants To Two Clinics In N.B.

OTTAWA (CP)—Two New Brunswick clinics will receive federal health grants totalling \$4,730, the health department announced Friday.

The province's first glaucoma clinic, to be in Saint John, gets \$1,265 for technical equipment. Glaucoma, an eye disease, causes 12 per cent of the blindness in Canada.

The polio clinic and health centre in Fredericton will receive \$3,465 to equip a new laboratory.

Western Release Counters Leaks On Disarmament Talks

LONDON (Reuters)—Russia has accepted the Western proposal that world disarmament should take place in three stages but has disagreed over the extent to which armed forces should be reduced.

This was disclosed Friday night by Jules Moch, French delegate at the five-power disarmament conference here.

Moch also disclosed—as a counter to what the West bitterly calls "distorted" Russian leaks from the supposedly secret talks—that East-West divergence persists over international control of any agreed disarmament.

Moch called a press conference to complain that the Russian first deputy foreign minister, Andrei Gromyko, had renewed on his promise of secrecy by giving an interview Thursday to the Russian news agency Tass.

The British foreign office also charged Gromyko, now in Stockholm en route to Moscow, with a gross breach of the secrecy rules.

PROPOSALS DISCLOSED

Moch made these disclosures of what had happened at the talks, held under United Nations auspices:

1. The West proposes a "ceiling" on the number of troops in the United States, Russia, and Communist China—should stay between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 men each. Russia wants a proportionate reduction of one-third. This is unacceptable to the west because it says it leaves Russia with a 3,500,000-man army.
2. The West proposes international control effectively functioning at the beginning of each of the three phases of disarmament.
3. Russia has agreed that disarmament should be implemented in three phases but has not answered the proposal for assuring international control at the start of each stage.

Moch said that the disarmament talks would go on indefinitely as long as it is possible to do something.

TORONTO, (CP)—Ten electrical wire and cable manufacturers were convicted Friday of operating a price-fixing combine. They will be sentenced May 16.

The ruling came as a climax to a prosecution resulting from an 18-month combines inquiry launched in 1952 when the Dominion Government received complaints that firms were making identical and non-competitive bids on tenders for electrical equipment.

The 10 firms were named in a report in November, 1953, by H. Carl Goldenberg of Montreal, special combines commissioner. Mr. Goldenberg charged that, by arranging to submit identical bids on tenders, they "made a mockery" of competitive bidding.

A grand jury in Ontario Superior Court last September considered an indictment presented by crown prosecutor John D. Arnpur and returned a true bill requiring the firms to face trial.

British goods.

Mr. Arnpur also said representatives of the Canadian companies met regularly and arranged "actual or tacit agreements as to prices."

After a lengthy trial, judgment was reserved until Friday. The matter of sentence remained to be decided.

ASKS MAXIMUM FINE

P. A. Hess, special crown counsel, asked for the maximum fine of \$10,000 each.

Convicted were Northern Electric Co. Ltd., Canada Wire and Cable, Filcrest Ltd. formerly Phillips Electric, Canadian General Electric Co. Ltd., Automatism Electric Sales, Cables, Conduits and Fittings Ltd., Federal Wire and Cable Co. Ltd., Triangle Conduit and Cable Canada Ltd., Industrial Wire and Cable, and Boston Insulated Wire and Cable Co. Ltd.

TACTIC AGREEMENTS

When the trial started last Jan. 10, Mr. Arnpur said the companies controlled between 90 and 99 per cent of Canadian wire and cable business and that each year they produced more than \$108,000,000 worth of goods.

He said the firms had an agreement with British companies. This agreement kept the British firms out of the Canadian market because of higher prices charged on British goods.

Record Price Paid For Grand Champion Steer At Fat Stock Sale Yesterday

The record price of one dollar a pound was realized at the sale which netted the breeders almost \$16,000 and from reliable sources is said to be an all time Canadian record for east of Toronto. It surpasses a recent sale in Amherst where the average price was 26.48 cents and the top price paid was 80 1/2 cents per lb.

Hon. C. C. Baker, Minister of Agriculture, who opened the sale told the breeders that it was most encouraging to see the show gaining such growth from year to year. He was also pleased to see that the quality had improved (Continued on Page 2 col. 4)

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Belgian Gov't Moves To Head Off Protest March

BRUSSELS (Reuters)—The Belgian government ordered a triple ring of barbed-wire roadblocks thrown around Brussels Friday and prohibited movement of 100 special train in which Roman Catholics planned to arrive Saturday for a mass protest against proposed government cuts in subsidies for church-run schools.

The measures were the numerical-liberal government's answer to the Catholic opposition's repeated threats to defy the ban on the demonstration.

More than half of Belgium's 1,650,000 school children attend Catholic schools. The government plans to cut subsidies to these schools and increase state control over them.

The Associated Press says the government contends it is trying to correct alleged abuses by the previous regime which had a Catholic majority in the cabinet. It accused its predecessor of encouraging parochial schools at the expense of state institutions.

The Belgian capital was tense Friday night as the opposing forces prepared to hold mass meetings less than one mile apart in the heart of the city.

Thousands of armed police have been concentrated to deal with possible trouble. They have orders to use all measures, even opening fire if necessary, to maintain order.

ON QUI VIVE

The cabinet Friday afternoon cancelled army leaves and ordered soldiers confined to barracks in a state of alert. Similar commands were issued to police.

But Interior Minister Pierre Vermeulen said: "There is no state of siege or emergency in Belgium. The only thing is that public gatherings in the street have been banned in Brussels and the police have been ordered to take all measures to enforce this ban."

Barricades were going up on all roads leading into Brussels. By noon an outer ring, six to 10 miles from the centre, was manned by police with sub-machine-guns.

NEED IDENTIFICATION

Police checked identities and destinations of drivers and passengers. Those living in Brussels were allowed through without question, but many others were turned back.

During the night a second ring of roadblocks, only three miles from the heart of Brussels, was to be established.

Shortly after midnight a final tight security cordon was to be set up downtown.

The government appealed Friday for calm after a cabinet meeting devoted almost entirely to the situation.



TORONTO (CP)—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

Location	Min	Max
Dawson	15	28
Vancouver	30	48
Victoria	29	48
Edmonton	5b	17
Calgary	11b	17
Regina	6b	10
Winnipeg	8b	14
Toronto	25	45
Ottawa	17	32
Montreal	23	33
Quebec	25	32
Fredericton	26	37
Saint John	30	39
Moncton	24	37
Halifax	32	44
Charlottetown	29	33
Sydney	29	33
Yarmouth	34	40
St. John's, Nfld.	28	32

HALIFAX (CP)—The Dominion weather office says if a southern disturbance swings up the Atlantic coast, snow will spread into the district on Saturday. Fine but cold weather is most likely for Sunday.

Forecast:

Lower St. John river valley, southern half of eastern N. B. counties: Clear with a few cloudy intervals; little change in temperature; west winds 20 becoming light in the afternoon. Low-high at Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton 23 and 32.

Outlook for Sunday: Sunny and cold.

Northern half of eastern N. B. counties, Prince Edward Island, upper St. John river valley, Bay of Chaleur: Variable cloudiness with scattered snowflurries; little change in temperature; west winds 20. Low-high at Chatham 23 and 32, Charlottetown 25 and 32, Edmundston 20 and 25, Campbellton 23 and 28.

Outlook for Sunday: Variable cloudiness and cold.

Bay of Fundy: West winds 20 becoming light about noon; variable cloudiness; visibility 10 miles little change in temperature.

High tide today at Charlottetown at 12:11 a. m. and 12:09 p. m. Summerisle tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown. Sun rises today at 6:04 a. m. and sets at 6:32 p. m.